

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 17 and 18 as follows:

1. (Previously submitted) A stretchable collagen material.
  
2. (Previously submitted) The stretchable collagen material according to claim 1, wherein the collagen is derived from fish.
  
3. (Previously submitted) The stretchable collagen material according to claim 1, wherein the collagen is cross-linked by using a cross-linking agent.
  
4. (Previously submitted) The stretchable collagen material according to claim 3, wherein the cross-linking agent is a water-soluble carbodiimide.
  
5. (Previously submitted) A method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material including a step in which gel comprising collagen fiber cross-linked by using a cross-linking agent is subjected to a thermal treatment.
  
6. (Previously submitted) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to claim 5, including a step in which the gel is prepared by mixing of a collagen solution with a solvent which induces fiber formation and a solution of cross-linking agent.

7. (Previously submitted) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to claim 5, including a step in which the gel is prepared by cross-linking of fibers by a cross-linking agent during the fibril formation process of collagen.

8. (Previously submitted) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to claim 5, wherein fish-derived collagen is used.

9. (Previously submitted) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to claim 6, wherein the solvent inducing fiber formation is an aqueous solution of salt having a buffering ability selected from phosphate, acetate, carbonate and Tris.

10. (Previously submitted) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to claim 6, wherein a solution in which a water-soluble carbodiimide is dissolved in the solvent inducing fiber formation is used as the cross-linking agent.

11. (Previously submitted) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to claim 6, wherein the collagen concentration in the collagen solution is within a range of 0.01 to 3.0 (w/v) %.

12. (Previously submitted) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to claim 6, wherein the concentration of the cross-linking agent used is within a range of 15 mM to 80 mM as the final concentration in collagen gel before the thermal treatment.

13. (Previously submitted) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to claim 7, wherein mixing of the collagen solution with the solvent inducing fiber formation and the cross-linking agent solution is conducted at a temperature not higher than the temperature of the denaturing temperature of collagen plus 5°C.

14. (Previously submitted) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to claim 7, wherein the gel is prepared by mixing the collagen solution, the solvent inducing fiber formation and the cross-linking agent solution and then conducting incubation at least for one hour at a temperature not higher than the temperature of the denaturing temperature of collagen plus 5°C.

15. (Currently Amended) The method for manufacturing a stretchable collagen material according to claim 5, wherein the temperature for the termat thermal treatment is within a range of 30 to 200°C.

16. (Previously submitted) A stretchable collagen material which is manufactured by the method described in claim 5.

17. (Currently Amended) The stretchable collagen material mentioned in claim 1, which is used as a scaffold for cell carrier culture for giving elastic stimuli to incubated cells.

18. (Currently Amended) A scaffold for cell carrier culture comprising the stretchable collagen material mentioned in claim 1.

19. (Previously submitted) A basic material for artificial blood vessel comprising the stretchable collagen material mentioned in claim 1.

20. (Previously submitted) Collagen used for a subcutaneous implant in cosmetic surgery, comprising the stretchable collagen material described in claim 1.

21. (Previously submitted) A basic material for artificial tendon, comprising the stretchable collagen material described in claim 1.

22. (Previously submitted) An artificial dura matter, comprising the stretchable collagen material described in claim 1.

23. (Previously submitted) A medical material comprising the stretchable collagen material mentioned in claim 1.